Volume 4, Number 2
Winter 2009/2010

The South Danvers Observer

"As On We Glide"

The South Danvers Observer is published quarterly.

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Published by the
Peabody Institute Library

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"As on we glide,
our hearts to cheer,
There's one by our side,
to cheer and chide,
Who is always dear."

From the
January 18, 1860
South Danvers Wizard

Moulton-Corey House
c. 1900

—Whether living in the 21st century or the 19th, the need to break up the tedium of short dreary days and long winter nights hasn't changed. Indeed, the need for cheer in centuries past must have been greater, considering the everyday struggle most faced in life.

Until the early part of the 20th century, few families—rich **or** poor—saw all their children reach adulthood. Even when they had grown up, illness often shortened their lives. Many children were burdened by the loss of both parents and sometimes their siblings. In addition, it wasn't so long ago when most children were required to work to help their families keep a roof over their heads.

While few recreational diversions were recorded in newspapers before 1850, by 1845 in South Danvers, advertisements for ice cream saloons (probably not sought after in winter), interesting lectures and music programs indicated a shift in public sentiment from encouraging constant industry to the acceptance of "public amusement."

It didn't take long for Andrew Lunt's new building on Lowell Street, completed in 1845, to open its doors to dancing lessons, despite disapproval from some members of the South Congregational Church. Other forms of entertainments worried many adults.

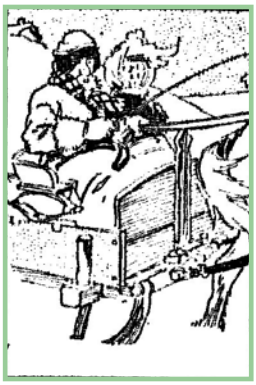
"[The author] sees among the evils of these vain and frivolous amusements a growing spirit of *rowdyism*, and calls on the Selectmen, as the constituted guardians of the public weal to be cautious in granting licenses for these low and demoralizing exhibitions." [From the April 26, 1845 *Danvers Courier*]

But with the flurry of new inventions caused by the Industrial Revolution and the arrival of the railroad in South Danvers in 1847, views began to change.

While literary associations, library visits and lyceum lectures had always been viewed as essential because of their educational value, other forms of amusement began to grow in public acceptance. These included musicals, sleighing parties, ice skating and roller skating parties, dancing, billiards, polo games, whist parties, chess games, socials, levees and band concerts.

And when spring finally did arrive, there would always be time to form baseball clubs and gather with friends for the ever increasing number of entertainments that were sure to come to town.

"The Earth Gleams White 'Neath the Stars at Night"



"Over the snow, over the snow,
Away they go, away they go!
The earth gleams white
'Neath the stars at night
And all is bright
Above and below."

From the January 18, 1860
South Danvers Wizard

—Winters of the 19th century provided people with many chances of indoor and outdoor amusements. While the earlier town newspapers, such as the *Danvers Courier*, didn't report on the frequency of ice skating, the town had enough ponds to make this sport one most people could enjoy. After all, this activity had been around for nearly three thousand years.

By the 1860s, announcements reporting on the days and times for skating parties revealed just how popular it had become. Advertisements insured that people would always be supplied with a fresh pair of ice skates.

Sleighing parties were popular and those with teams of horses found themselves in frequent demand.

"Now is the time for the merry sleigh rides, and this pleasant winter pastime is enjoyed by many a party of young men and maidens, old men and matrons, but chiefly by those in the joyous morning of life. . .The Center Grammar School under Mr. Upton took a jaunt in the 'Neptune' with a splendid team of six horses and went to Wenham, to enjoy skating on the pond as well as the ride. While crossing the Square, they gave three cheers, many times repeated, which we appropriated as a compliment to the Wizard office."

From the January 18, 1869

SLEIGHS! SLEIGHS.

Those about to purchase, will find it to their advantage to call on

PIKE & WHIPPLE,

ANDOVER STREET,
Peabody, Mass.

Advertisement from the
January 7, 1885
Peabody Press

SKATES!

SKATES! SKATES! SKATES!

Having received a fresh supply of Skates, we offer for sale an assortment of Ladies' and Gentlemens' skates, selected from the best styles of English, German and American Manufactures, and for quality and finish are unsurpassed.

The Ladies' styles are numerous, and at less prices than last season.

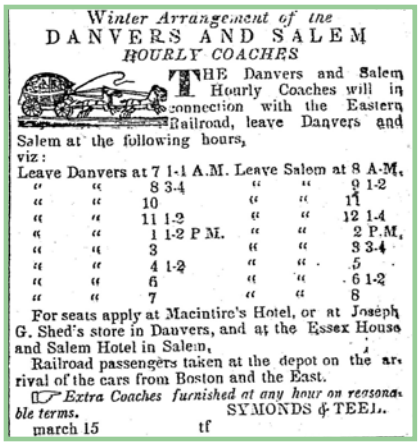
☞ Please call and examine the stock at
Jan 11 JAMES A. FARLESS,' 1st Essex st.

Advertisement in the
January 25, 1860
South Danvers Wizard

"This Pleasant and slippery amusement is now the order of the day—and the night. Our skating ponds are alive with merry groups who sometimes find that there is many a slip between the sole and the hip . . .We suppose it would be bootless to offer advice . . . yet we venture to inform them that they ought to be well strapped to their skates, lest they should fall off and hurt the ice. We have sometimes seen the unoffending christal [sic] pavement receive sundry dumps and bumps without any provocation whatever. We entreat them to be more tender to this brittle material, and not give it such unmerited abuse."

From the December 28, 1859
South Danvers Wizard

When the Weather Outside is Frightful



Winter Arrangement of the
DANVERS AND SALEM
HOURLY COACHES

THE Danvers and Salem Hourly Coaches will in connection with the Eastern Railroad, leave Danvers and Salem at the following hours, viz:

Leave Danvers at	7 1-1 A.M.	Leave Salem at	8 A.M.
" "	8 3-4	" "	9 1-2
" "	10	" "	11
" "	11 1-2	" "	12 1-4
" "	1 1-2 P.M.	" "	2 P.M.
" "	3	" "	3 3-4
" "	4 1-2	" "	5
" "	6	" "	6 1-2
" "	7	" "	8

For seats apply at Macintire's Hotel, or at Joseph G. Shed's store in Danvers, and at the Essex House and Salem Hotel in Salem.

Railroad passengers taken at the depot on the arrival of the cars from Boston and the East.

☞ *Extra Coaches furnished at any hour on reasonable terms.*

SYMONDS & TEEL.

march 15 tf

From *Danvers Courier*
March 18, 1845

The Peabody Bicycle Club was only organized last November, but it is now on a firm basis. Its exhibition at the roller skating rink, February 5, will consist of slow and obstacle bicycle races, each for a gold medal; an exhibition by Edward McLaughlin, and general skating and dancing."

From the *Peabody Press*
January 21, 1885

—Even with layers of clothing to protect one from the elements in a sleigh or on a frozen pond, the cold of the past, like today, cannot be withstood forever. And so South Danvers and later, Peabody, had any number of indoor amusements. In 1884, an indoor roller skating rink opened on Walnut Street. Those adept on the ice now had a chance to try their skill on land. This rink also drew in another sport, polo. Many games between the neighboring towns were played on Walnut Street in the 1880s.

A billiard parlor opened in 1910, in the Thomas Block, located on the corner of Main and Mill Street. And there were always whist games, dancing and musicals to keep people warm during the long dark months.

But people found it hard to wait for warmer weather, and so many summer activities were enjoyed in the roller skating rink. In addition to polo, the Peabody Bicycle Club often met there to practice for the coming summer months.

New Pool and Billiard Parlor

THOMAS BLOCK

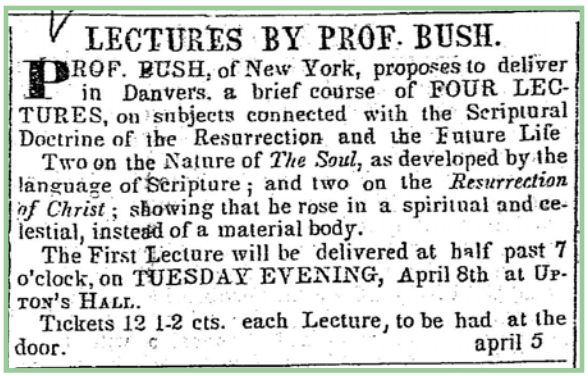
Five Pool and One Billard Tables

E. J. McCORMACK, - - Proprietor

From the *Peabody Progress*
Feb. 18, 1910

" Mr. Eben Upton Jr., so well known as an instrumental performer of music, and as a Teacher of the art of Dancing, proposes to open a day school for instruction in the latteraccomplishment at Sutton Hall if sufficient encouragement is given. . . .Here is a fine opportunity afforded to our citizens to have their young masters and misses trained to a graceful carriage and instructed in the 'poetry of motion' by a competent master of the art."

In the January 11, 1860
South Danvers Wizard



LECTURES BY PROF. BUSH.

PROF. BUSH, of New York, proposes to deliver in Danvers, a brief course of FOUR LECTURES, on subjects connected with the Scriptural Doctrine of the Resurrection and the Future Life. Two on the Nature of *The Soul*, as developed by the language of Scripture; and two on the *Resurrection of Christ*; showing that he rose in a spiritual and celestial, instead of a material body.

The First Lecture will be delivered at half past 7 o'clock, on TUESDAY EVENING, April 8th at UPTON'S HALL.

Tickets 12 1-2 cts. each Lecture, to be had at the door. april 5

From the *Danvers Courier*
April 5, 1845

"THE SOCIALS' LEVEE—This old and favorite organization held their first Levee of the Season, on Monday evening last, with superior music, by Wyatt & Parsons Band, assisted by some of the Germanians from Boston, making ten pieces. This levee was given as complimentary to Master Eben Dale Sutton, the son of the proprietor of the hall, and who was present to witness the performances which he enjoyed with much zest. . . .The second party will be held in the same hall, on Wednesday evening next.

In the January 18, 1860

Among Other Amusements

"The first grand Costume Carnival of the season will be held on Thursday evening, Jan. 15th. There will be a concert from the Salem Brass Band . . . Those who intend to come in costume should be on hand at 7:30 as it is desirable to start the grand march at 8 o'clock sharp. . . .As this is the first grand Carnival ever held in town of this kind it is hoped there will be a large number present.

From the *Peabody Press*
January 7, 1885

Lovers of polo will improve the opportunity to-morrow evening of seeing what promises to be the most interesting game of the season at the Salem rink. The Salems will meet the Paris club and as both are powerful teams it will be a case of Greek meet Greek? There is to be no slugging but a fine scientific game of polo.

From the *Peabody Press*
January 14, 1885

From the *Peabody Enterprise*
February 12, 1912

ESTABLISHED, 1834.
DOLE & OSGOOD'S
Carriage and Wagon Works,
PEABODY, MASS.
Manufacturers and Exporters in all the Leading Styles of
FINE CARRIAGES, WAGONS, SLEIGHS, &C.
Special attention given to Repairing in all branches of Light and Heavy Work.

From the 1882 Naumkeag Directory

PERIODICALS, PAPERS, &c.

LUTHER CHANDLER, GENERAL AGENT for the sale of all the principal Periodicals, Newspapers, &c., and will furnish them to all persons who may wish to subscribe; among which are

Graham's Magazine,	Harper's Pictorial Bible,
Ladies' National do,	Verplanck's Shakspeare,
Arthur's Lady's do,	Phil Saturday Courier,
Christian Family Mag.,	Neal's Gazette,
Gentlemen's Magazine,	New York Mirror,
Godey's Lady's Book,	Frost's Pictorial World,

The above and all the principal periodicals and papers will be furnished promptly.

☞BOOKS BOUND at the shortest notice, and on the most reasonable terms.

Orders may be left at J. SHED'S, opposite the Monument, South Danvers. 1y mch 29

From the *Danvers Courier*
April 5, 1845

EASY SHAVING AND HAIR CUTTING.

B. B. WILLIAMS respectfully informs his friends and the public, that he has removed to the store formerly occupied by Lambert & Merrill, (under the Courier Office,) which he has fitted up in a neat manner, and is now prepared to wait upon those who believe that

"Man wants but little beard below,
Nor wants that little long."

Champooing, Hair Cutting and Shaving is performed to the satisfaction of all who may favor him with their patronage.

Danvers, March 15, 1845. tf

From the *Danvers Courier*
April 12, 1845

Works consulted for this newsletter:

Danvers Courier, 1845-1848
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Peabody Press, 1868-1896
Peabody Star, 1899
Peabody Progress, 1910
Peabody Enterprise, 1912-1830
William Blany Hammond Journal, 1857-1859
Naumkeag Directory, 1882

For more articles and information, go to: www.peabodylibrary.org/history/index.html